January 10, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Free Press: Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette to appeal ruling on same-sex health care benefits policy

"Attorney General Bill Schuette said he will appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court an opinion that upholds the Michigan Civil Service Commission's policy granting health care benefits to same-sex partners of state employees, a spokeswoman said Wednesday."

Full story

Also see:

The Detroit News: Appeal planned on partner benefits for Michigan employees

Full story

The Daily Tribune: Michigan court approves same-sex partner benefits for state workers

Full story

Note: The article also ran in several news outlets including the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Macomb Daily, the Midland Daily News, the Oakland Press and the Times Herald/Port Huron. The MiLW Blog: Health benefits for unmarried couples constitutional, COA says

Full story

State Bar of Michigan Blog: Court of Appeals Affirms Domestic Partner Benefits

Full story

Detroit Free Press: Judge in Tameria Greene neglect case won't be tossed

"State officials will not seek to remove [Judge Frank Szymanski,] the presiding judge in a Wayne County juvenile court neglect case involving a young girl, who was murdered last month, and her four brothers, the Department of Human Services announced today."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Siblings of girl, 8, suffer trauma of her killing, new report shows

Full story

The Detroit News: Slain girl's mother endured a painful childhood, court documents show

Full story

The Detroit News: Judge to rule by mail on bid to oust Detroit school board members

"[Wayne Circuit Judge John Gillis Jr.] said Thursday he will issue a decision by mail on whether he will remove seven elected members of the Detroit of Education amid allegations by the Michigan Attorney General that they are holding office illegally."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Michigan AG Schuette, Detroit school board attorneys argue suit seeking removal of board members

The Daily Telegram/Adrian: Our View: Hathaway fraud case calls for fixing Supreme Court selection process

"Maybe it takes a notably bad Michigan Supreme Court scandal to fix Michigan's notably bad process of letting political parties nominate new justices. That is the silver lining we hope for in the wake of Justice Diane Hathaway's resignation set Jan. 21 amid housing fraud allegations."

Full story

Also see:

Lansing State Journal: Editorial: Hathaway's fall offers tough lesson *Full story*

** The article is available by subscription only.

Macomb County Legal News: Justice Hathaway retires in wake of legal battle Full story

Michigan Capitol Confidential: Supreme Court Justice's Problems Not Likely to Affect Generous Pension

Full story

The Daily Telegram/Adrian: No appeal granted in robbery case

"The Michigan Supreme Court refused to hear a Detroit man's appeal of his conviction in an Adrian robbery case, Lenawee County Prosecutor Burke Castleberry announced today.... An order from the state's high court said [Isaac] Harris failed to establish a claim."

Full story

The Daily Telegram/Adrian: Hearing to proceed in drive-by murder appeal

"Attorneys involved in the appeal of three men convicted of a 2002 drive-by murder in Adrian met Monday in Lenawee County Circuit Court to iron out details of an appeal hearing later this month.... Defendants Paul Daniel and Peter Daniel, 46, and Leonard Dee McGlown, 46, all of Macomb County, may bring motions for a new trial after the hearing, according to orders from the Michigan Court of Appeals." Full story

The Daily Telegram/Adrian: County \$750,000 in red for 2012

"Budget overruns for the sheriff's department and jail and a shortfall in court collections contributed to an estimated \$750,000 in red ink for 2012, Lenawee County commissioners were told Tuesday.... District court fell nearly 10 percent short of budgeted court costs collections for the year.... The shortfall occurred despite the court's extra efforts to clear up delinquent accounts, [county administrator Martin] Marshall said."

Full story

Daily Press & Argus: Attorney dispute continues in local synthetic marijuana case

"The case against two women accused of selling synthetic marijuana remains on hold as a dispute over who should best represent them appears headed to the Michigan Court of Appeals."

Full story

Grand Rapids Press: Grand Rapids' marijuana decriminalization awaits Kent County judge's ruling

"A Kent County prosecutor said that a voter initiative to decriminalize marijuana wrongly prohibits Grand Rapids police from enforcing state law – or even reporting a marijuana crime to county prosecutors.... But

City Attorney Catherine Mish and attorney Jack Hoffman, representing Decriminalize GR, the driving force behind the effort, said voters passed a legal charter amendment that should stand."

Full story

The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Wiley seeks 2nd opinion in cussing case

"Berrien Trial Court Judge Dennis Wiley on Tuesday refused to disqualify himself from the courthouse cussing case that has attracted national media attention. But Wiley said he will ask Berrien's chief judge, Thomas Nelson, to review the ruling, which followed a 10-minute court hearing Tuesday."

Full story

Also see:

Leader Publications/Niles: Woman jailed for cursing to return to court Full story

Legal Newsline: Young re-elected as Michigan's Chief Justice

"The Michigan Supreme Court unanimously has elected Robert P. Young Jr. as a chief justice for a second term. In the position, Young committed to continue court reforms to improve public service and transparency."

Full story

The Macomb Daily: St. Clair Shores court workers gearing up for move

"Employees in 40th District Court in St. Clair Shores are gearing up for a big move next week. The 9,600-square-foot court on Jefferson Avenue at 11 Mile Road will be closed to the public Jan. 17-18 as court operations move to a temporary new site while the existing building is demolished and a new court constructed."

Full story

Morning Sun: Gratiot commissioner claims courthouse security is illegal

"Gratiot's Courthouse security needs to be re-examined because it's in violation of the law, claimed one member of the new, five member county board of commissioners when they met for the first time Tuesday."

Full story